

as his stint as field representative for then California Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa in Sacramento in the 1990s, and his long-time work in organized labor. He joined SEIU 99 in Los Angeles in 2000 and remained with the organization until his selection as vice president of NUHW, which represents many Filipino and Filipina hospital workers.

Born in the Philippines on Sept. 11, 1949, Dr. Jay was very active in politics in his native country. A dedicated fighter for liberty and democratic rights, Dr. Jay was detained under martial law for being a staff member of the late Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. in 1972. He also actively campaigned for Eddie Villanueva during the Philippines presidential elections in 2009 and was president of Bagong Pilipino.

He brought his passion for serving his community back to the United States, where he was a leader, advisor or member of many Filipino American organizations including Justice for Filipino American Veterans, through which he lobbied for full compensation of Filipino World War II veterans in Washington and Sacramento.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jacinto "Jay" Valencia for his record of civic leadership, indomitable spirit and remarkable service and contributions to his community and to our nation.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
BENNIE F. BOWERS, JR.

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Bennie F. Bowers, Jr., a native of Benton Harbor, Michigan, who is retiring from the Michigan State Police after 25 years of impeccable service.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Lieutenant Bowers on his impressive and inspiring service record to the state of Michigan. His 25 years of steadfast community involvement have helped keep Michigan safe, and have made all of us from Southwest Michigan extremely proud. Lieutenant Bowers' renowned career includes protecting Michigan's citizens while posted at Michigan State Police's Battle Creek Post, Paw Paw District Headquarters and Regional Dispatch, Detroit Post, and most recently, the Metro Post. His selfless actions have made a real difference to folks within and outside of my district for decades. Lt. Bowers used innovative methods to enforce law. He was never satisfied with the status quo, and always worked to improve the communities in which he worked. He was respected by his peers and known as one to "lead by example."

Lt. Bowers' leadership is exemplified in his founding of the Michigan Youth Leadership Academy. Lt. Bowers recognized the importance of fostering discipline, respect, leadership, and teamwork in our youth. His efforts assisted in the reduction of youth crime and ingrained skills which those youth will carry with them for their whole lives. Lt. Bowers was also instrumental in the Michigan State Police Explorer Program, a program that works with youth interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Part of Lt. Bowers' legacy will be the youth he influenced to serve as Michigan's next generation of law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Lt. Bowers' inspiring commitment to our great state and my constituents. I applaud Bennie on a fine career and wish him the best of luck in his retirement and future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. BRIDGETT
CARPENTER FOR HER NOTABLE
SERVICES IN THE MISSISSIPPI
HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Bridgett Carpenter.

Mrs. Carpenter is a Registered Nurse and Clinical Nurse Specialist at Saint Dominic Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi and a Master of Science degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi's Medical Center.

Mrs. Carpenter is a member of the Association of Pediatric Surgical Nurses, National Association of Neonatal Nurses, and Society of Pediatric Nurses. She is a certified Pediatric Advanced Life Support regional faculty member as well as a certified Advanced Burn Life Support Provider. Mrs. Carpenter has worked at Saint Dominic Hospital for the past 23 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Bridgett Carpenter for her notable services as a Registered Nurse in the Mississippi health care community.

BEN CORDOVA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ben Cordova for his service to our community and the veterans of Colorado.

Mr. Cordova is a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran, Commerce City business leader, and a tireless advocate for veterans' rights. He created the Ben Cordova Foundation dedicated to help service members. The foundation helps families navigate the state and federal veterans' services bureaucracy including education, VA health care and employment.

Mr. Cordova recently completed a 344-mile walk across Colorado in 44 days to bring awareness and support for his foundation. Despite his diabetes and neuropathy ailments he is set to begin a 2,745 mile journey across the country next February to raise money for veterans' services organizations. It is his goal to ensure every veteran, young or old, is aware of the help available to them nationwide.

I congratulate Mr. Cordova on his efforts to bring awareness to veterans' issues and extend my deepest thanks to him for his courage and service to our country.

HONORING BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROBERT T. JOHNSON

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month 2012, I rise today to recognize an individual from the Bronx whom I admire greatly, the Honorable Robert T. Johnson.

Robert T. Johnson has been the District Attorney of Bronx County since January 1, 1989. His first election was a historic one, as he became the first African-American District Attorney in the history of New York State. He is now the longest serving District Attorney in Bronx history.

Mr. Johnson, a native New Yorker, was born in the Bronx. He is a product of some of the many great schools in our city, including James Monroe High School, the City College of New York, and New York University School of Law. He has dedicated much of his professional life to helping, protecting, and defending the residents of New York City, and has spent several years as both a criminal defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society, and eight years as a Bronx Assistant District Attorney. In August of 1986, he was appointed a Judge of the New York City Criminal Court, and was later promoted to Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, where he served until 1988.

Although Mr. Johnson has emphasized the prosecution of serious crimes, he has shown a great understanding of the many other factors that impact the criminal justice system. He has worked to reduce recidivism, to improve community outreach, to support drug rehabilitation as well as alternatives to incarceration, and to better deploy crime prevention strategies. He deeply understands that being a District Attorney is about more than just conviction rates—it is about solving the underlying problems that cause crime in the first place. Towards that end, Mr. Johnson has also worked to educate young people in the Bronx in order to help prevent crime and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Two recent examples of these efforts are the Youth Trial Advocacy Program (Y-TAP) and the Students Together Avoiding Risk (STAR) Program. Y-TAP provides high school students with an opportunity to develop debating and advocacy skills by competing in a moot court program under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys. Through the STAR program, staff from the District Attorney's Office provide 5th and 6th graders, along with their parents, with guidance on the repercussions and impact of gang participation, gun violence and drugs.

Mr. Speaker, after so many years of working to protect the residents of the Bronx, Mr. Johnson has earned the gratitude of more people than he could possibly know. Mr. Johnson is not only a highly respected prosecutor who enforces the law justly and fairly, he is also revered by a wide variety of communities throughout the Bronx. This is a testament to his judicious manner and evenhandedness, qualities that are paramount for a district attorney. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to someone who

serves the residents of the Bronx with such distinction, The Honorable Robert T. Johnson.

HONORING CLYDE W. BOWLING

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Mr. GOODLATTE, would like to honor Clyde W. Bowling, a devoted public servant to the people of Bluefield and Tazewell County, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Bowling was born on February 26, 1912. His family moved to Graham, now known as Bluefield, where he graduated from Graham High School in 1931. From 1933 to 1934, Mr. Bowling served as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, working at the Beltsville, Maryland, research center and in various forestry projects.

Mr. Bowling is a proud veteran of World War II. During the War, he served with the Combat Engineers, 99th Division, and the 743rd Railroad Battalion building railroads in Germany and Belgium.

His willingness to serve extended to the Tazewell County and Bluefield communities as well. Mr. Bowling served as the leader of Boy Scout Troop 144 for over 30 years. During this time he received several awards, including the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to young people. He was the Treasurer of the Town of Bluefield in 1962, a member of the Tazewell County Soil and Water Conservation Board in the 1960s, and held a position as a member of the Cumberland Plateau Planning District for 13 years. He worked closely with the Tazewell County Transportation Safety Commission for 40 years to increase highway safety and support improvements. He was actively involved with American Legion Post #122, the Masonic Lodge #122, the Graham High School Athletic Booster Club, the Bluefield Business and Professional Association, and was a charter member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9696. Mr. Bowling is also a longtime member of Virginia Avenue United Methodist Church.

Through hard work and dedication, Mr. Bowling established the Mountain Dominion Resource Conservation and Development Area, RC & D. He served as chairman of this organization as well as the New River-Highlands RC & D. In addition, he served in all offices of the State Association of RC & D Councils, as second vice president of the Southeast Association of RC & D Councils, and was named to the Virginia State Association of RC & D Hall of Fame. He was also a member of Earth Team.

Currently, Mr. Bowling resides in the Virginia Veterans Care Center next to the V.A. Hospital in Salem, VA. He is the oldest veteran in the Center.

Mr. Bowling's contributions to the community are to be commended. He has impacted many lives throughout his 100 years. As a member of America's greatest generation, the young people of today have much to learn from his service and dedication. We are honored to pay tribute to this great man and this very special birthday. Happy Birthday, Mr. Bowling. Thank you for all that you have done for Southwest Virginia.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LONG ISLAND VETERAN THOMAS H. WATKINS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Thomas H. Watkins, an American veteran from Long Island. He passed away on January 31, 2012. Now, the entire community is mourning this tremendous loss.

Before becoming a fixture in the Long Island community, Thomas played a key role in World War II honorably serving the U.S. Army. In late 1942, he was drafted and assigned to the 92nd Infantry Division part of the legendary Buffalo Soldiers. Of the 909,000 African Americans selected for duty in the Army during World War II, the men of the 92nd division were among the only African Americans to see combat in Europe, putting their lives on the line in battle against the German troops in Italy. Despite the harsh reality of racial segregation, Thomas and the Buffalo Soldiers fought valiantly to defend the country they loved. It was their courage and bravery that earned the respect of their fellow servicemen and country. For the next 4 years Thomas went on to serve in Italy and Germany before being honorably discharged.

After serving on the battlefields, Thomas continued his commitment to his country at the Northport Veteran Affairs Medical Center. He went on to work on behalf of Long Island veterans for over 20 years before finishing his career with the Town of Huntington. Not only was Thomas a great resource for Long Island veterans, he was a deeply engaged civic leader and public servant in his community.

A member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Huntington, Thomas worked tirelessly for the congregation he loved as Trustee Emeritus. Also, aware of the vital need for racial equality in America, Thomas held a lifetime membership to the NAACP. His devotion to his community, faith and family should be commended.

There is no question that his fellow veterans, his family and Long Islanders will miss Thomas. In the wake of his passing, we should all remember the sacrifice our veterans make to keep us safe here at home. I am forever grateful for Thomas's contributions as a serviceman and leader on Long Island. I offer my sincerest thoughts and prayers to his family.

CITY OF GOLDEN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Civic Award.

The city's parks and recreation facilities, programs, activities, and services contribute greatly to the overall quality of life in Golden.

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining open spaces, for providing a quality system of parks and recreational facilities and for providing positive leisure opportunities for the community. Golden is home to many unique recreational amenities.

The American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), awarded the City of Golden the National Gold Medal Award at NRPA's Annual Congress and Exposition.

The Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves.

The Golden Parks and Recreation vision is "Golden will be recognized as a national leader in the provision of high quality parks, trails and recreation facilities."

Their mission is "to promote and provide safe and comprehensive community facilities, programs and services that will enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors."

I extend my deepest congratulations to all the employees of the City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department for this well deserved recognition by the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce.

MEMORIAM FOR FRANK CUSHING, APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTOR

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Frank Martin Cushing, who gave more than 30 years of service to the Nation as a congressional staffer, culminating as the staff director for the House Appropriations Committee. Frank passed away on Monday, Feb. 6, 2012 at the age of 59.

Frank was a fabulous person, a true leader and someone who you could always count on to get an extremely difficult job done right—while leaving everyone feeling good about it when it was finished. He was a mentor and friend to so many of the wonderful staff who work for the Appropriations Committee, and one of the best people I ever worked with in my career in public service.

I first came to know Frank well when he came to work for me as staff director of the House Appropriations Committee on Veterans Affairs, HUD and Independent Agencies in 1994. He immediately helped craft a bill that reduced spending by several billion dollars, but at the same time won over many agency heads and executive branch officials who found him tough but fair and extremely knowledgeable about their needs.

Frank was a giant of a man. Members on both sides of the aisle—in both the House and Senate—respected him for his integrity, compassion, pragmatism and mastery of the political process. When I became Appropriations Committee chairman in 2005, there was no doubt in my mind who should be staff director